

Adopted April 24, 1944
File No. 4732-43

REPORT OF THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
on the
Investigation of an Accident Involving Aircraft
During a Local Practice Flight

Sara Kathryn Garrett was seriously injured in an accident which occurred at Muckols Airport, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, about 11.20 a.m. on November 1, 1943. Miss Garrett held a student pilot certificate and had accumulated approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours of solo flight time, of which about $1\text{-}\frac{3}{4}$ hours were in the type airplane involved. The aircraft, a Porterfield LP-65, NC 32333, owned by L. D. Catlin, received minor damage.

After a local practice flight Pilot Garrett returned to the airport to land. She failed to level off in time and the plane bounced several feet into the air. It then nosed into the ground and turned over on its back.

Investigation revealed that while on the downwind leg, preparatory to landing, Miss Garrett unbuckled her safety belt and leaned forward to turn on the carburetor heat which, in the subject type aircraft, is located in the front cockpit. (When this aircraft is flown solo from the rear seat it is necessary for the pilot to unfasten the safety belt in order to reach the carburetor heat control.) She neglected to re-fasten the belt and was thrown forward against the back of the front seat and instrument panel upon impact.

While the seriousness of the student's injuries resulted from her failure to re-fasten her safety belt, the probable cause of the accident was poor technique.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ Fred A. Toombs
Secretary